

COUNTDOWN FOR CHILDCARE

Our children deserve
the best

URGENCE GARDERIES

Nos enfants méritent
ce qu'il y a de mieux

CHILD CARE
CC 4
3/24/87



April 30, 1987

Dear C.D.C.A.A. Member,

The "Countdown for Childcare" campaign has been launched by the Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Canadian Labour Congress because we need urgent action on childcare.

The Special Committee on Childcare tabled its report at the end of March. The Committee's recommendations do nothing to create a system of quality, non-profit childcare accessible to all who wish to use it. The enclosed joint campaign leaflet "Our Children Deserve the Best" illustrates the problem of relying on tax credits to finance a child care system.

We also enclose a copy of the report Childcare - What the Public Said, an analysis of the transcripts of the public hearings held across Canada by the parliamentary Special Committee on Child Care (March-June 1986). This analysis demonstrates that a relatively clear consensus on childcare's main policy issues is emerging in Canada. A strong majority of respondents supported universally accessible childcare, a non-profit operation, comprehensive services, paid for in part by public dollars directed towards the services, and in part by some parent fees.

The federal government is planning to introduce its childcare policy at the end of June. Now is the time to send a clear message to Ottawa that we want a comprehensive, universally accessible, non-compulsory, non-profit, quality childcare system. The Countdown for Childcare "We Care" petition calls upon Ottawa to implement this vision.

Time is short! Start collecting signatures today. Petitions must be returned to the provincial address at the bottom of the petition by June 1st.

The petitions will then be attached to lengths of ribbon. The Countdown for Childcare campaign will be symbolized by lengths of ribbon spanning the country and uniting our commitment to quality childcare. These ribbons and their petitions will be unfurled on Parliament Hill in front of Prime Minister Mulroney in mid-June.

Local ribbon events are also being organized in your area. Get involved! Contact the provincial campaign representative:

ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER DAY CARE
555 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Y6

(416) 532-4031

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WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO:

- Circulate and return the petition
- Copy the petition and get it out to other groups
- mail it out - or get it into someone else's mailing
- write a letter to the editor supporting the aims of the campaign
- take the petition to conferences and meetings
- write or phone your MP saying you support our childcare position
- phone into an open line show to talk about the need for a quality childcare system
- contact the provincial representative listed to work on a ribbon event and other things.

An overall co-ordinator, Paula Fletcher, is working on Countdown for Childcare. She can be reached at (416) 531-2121.

I urge you to give your fullest support to this vital campaign,

Lynette Billard

Lynette Billard
President
Canadian Day Care Advocacy Association

LB/rb

Encl.

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